

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01551 082149Z

70

ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 INR-07 /018 W

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R 082041Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4754

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1551

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, AR, US

SUBJECT: VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY: CASE OF RICHARD MARTIN

REFS: A) BUENOS AIRES 629, B) STATE 047636

1. EMBASSY VERBALLY PROTESTED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ASKING FOR INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN'S DETENTION, POINTING OUT THAT ACCORDING TO HIS VERSION OF EVENTS, DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY SEEMED OBVIOUSLY TO HAVE BEEN VIOLATED.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOW INVESTIGATED CASE THOROUGHLY AND REPLIED TO OUR DEMARCHE OF JAN 20 (SEE REF A). ACCORDING TO POLICE, THEY DID NOT ARREST MARTIN; RATHER, HE WAS TAKEN TO STATION HOUSE AFTER ALTERCATION WITH PROPRIETOR OF PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENT SO THAT HE COULD "COOL OFF" AND IN ORDER TO AVOID PUBLIC SCANDAL. POLICE HAVE SEVERAL EYE WITNESSES TO CORROBORATE THEIR VERSION OF STORY. THEY CLAIM MARTIN WAS NOT ILL TREATED BUT THAT HE DID HAVE TO BE FORCED INTO CAR.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S POSITION IS THAT MARTIN'S DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY WAS NOT VIOLATED, THAT HE NOT ARRESTED AND THAT POLICE ONLY ACTED FOR HIS OWN GOOD TO PREVENT WHAT COULD HAVE BALLOONED INTO SERIOUS PUBLIC INCIDENT.

4. WHILE EMBASSY DOES NOT ACCEPT ARGENTINE VERSION AT FACE VALUE, THERE ARE CIRCUMSTANCES IN CASE WHICH MAKE IT UNWISE AND PROBABLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO PURSUE IT FURTHER. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE OUR POINT. WE HAVE REGISTERED STRONG CONCERN WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON
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SUBJECT OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND ASKED THAT POLICE

BE GIVEN SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS REGARD.

HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, DETENTION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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From: BUENOS AIRES
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